



God's Work. Our Hands

Feast of the Holy Cross

September 12, 2021, 8:45 am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Gathering

Prelude

God Is Our Refuge and Strength
Written in remembrance of 9-11

Margaret Vardell Sandresky
(b. 1921)

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

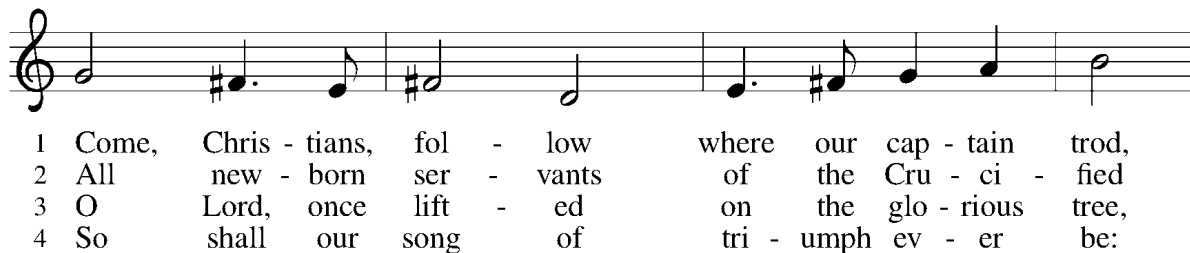
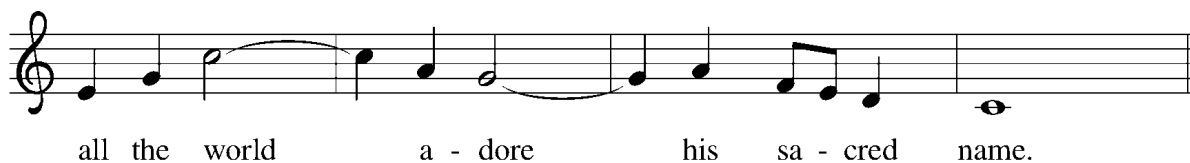
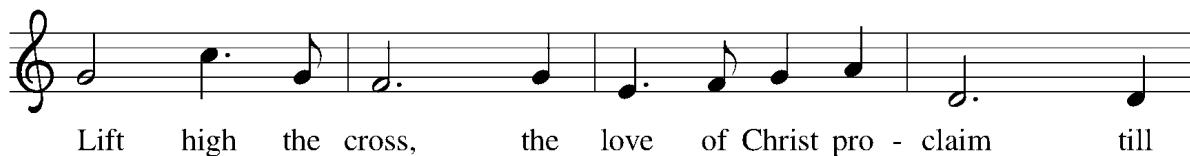
Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

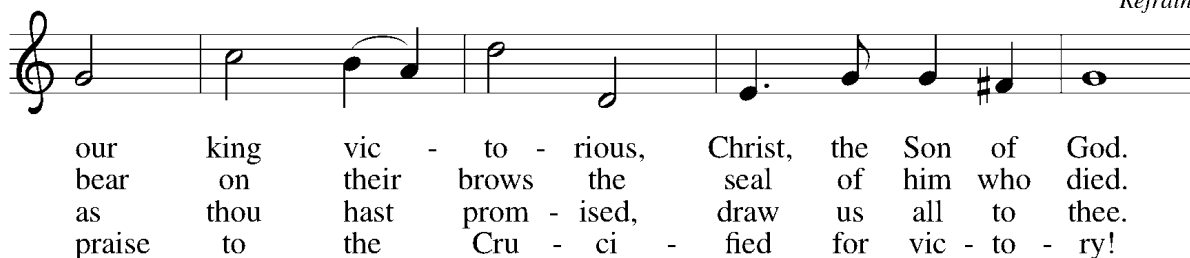
God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.
Amen.

Entrance Hymn

ELW 660



Refrain



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

Reading

Psalm 90:16-19

Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands —
O prosper the work of our hands!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Gospel

John 3:16

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Today's gospel is one of the most well-known verses in the Bible. Often called the "Gospel in a nutshell," it is considered a summary of the central theme of Christianity.

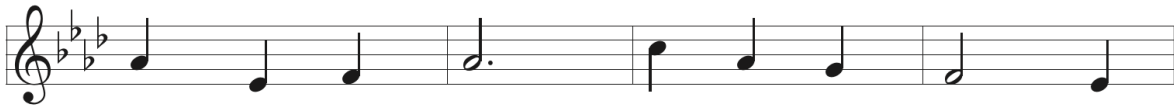
For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

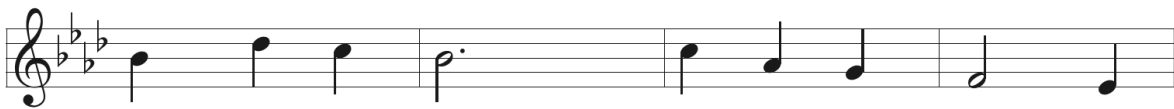
ELW 675



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



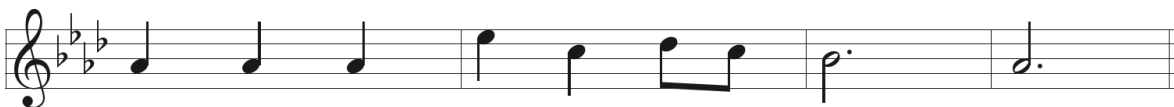
rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace. shout - ing for jus - tice.



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer and Remembrance for 9/11

God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
And though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea.

The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The following hymn is sung to the hymn tune "ST ANNE."

O God, our words cannot express
The pain we feel this day.
Enraged, uncertain, we confess
Our need to bow and pray.

We grieve for all who lost their lives...
And for each injured one.
We pray for children, husbands, wives
Whose grief has just begun.

O Lord, we're called to offer prayer
For all our leaders, too.
May they, amid such great despair,
Be wise in all they do.

We trust your mercy and your grace;
In you we will not fear!
May peace and justice now embrace!
Be with your people here!

Tune: Attributed to William Croft, 1708 ("Our God, Our Help in Ages Past")
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Affirmation of Vocations of Christians in the World

Christian friends, we all are called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves to the God of creation in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. Today at the start of the program year let us affirm and reaffirm all we do in the name of Christ.

You at home, in kitchens, living rooms, those at work, and those here, who carry out their vocation as a Christian in the world.

Will you endeavor to pattern your life and service after our Lord Jesus? Will you hold firm and lift high the message of the cross?

Yes with God's help.

Blessing of Hands (Marked with the Cross of Christ)

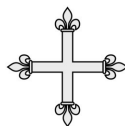
Bless the work of our hands, O God. Hands that work the land, hands that manufacture, create and mold. Bless the hands that clean, hands that wash, mop and scrub. Bless the hands that make music, and art, hands that play instruments and hold paint brushes. Bless the hands that care for people, hands that cook, feed, heal and nurture. Bless the hands of those who use keyboards to learn and to do work. Bless the hands that are generous, hands that share, hands that give food and money. Bless tiny hands. Bless strong hands. Bless the hands that are folded in prayer. Bless the hands that are lifted in praise. Marked with the cross of your eternal love, let it be your work, our hands.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.



Thanksgiving

Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or on the Give Plus app. You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Music at the offering

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

Dear Lord and Father
Text: John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807-1892
Music: C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of goodness, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We open our hands and return to you what you have first given us. Accept our offering as a token of our abiding devotion and love. Use these gifts to bring peace, justice and comfort to the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen .

The Lord's Prayer

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

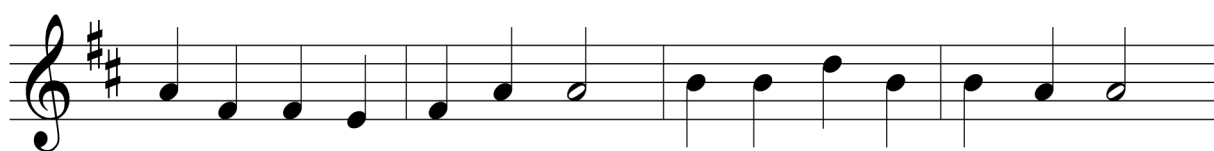
**Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos
Santificado sea tu Nombre
Venga a nosotros tu Reino
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia
Perdona nuestras ofensas
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen**

Sending

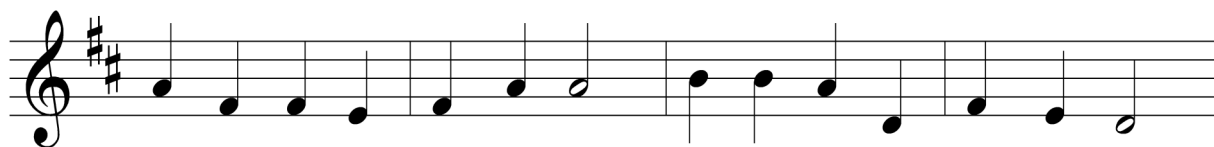
Blessing

Look to the cross. Behold our God who so loved the world.
Know God's grace-filled work. Let us respond with hands and hearts of faith.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

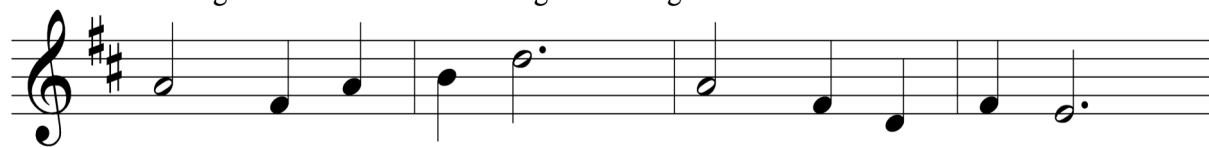
Sending Hymn



1. Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2. Je - sus loves me! he who died heav-en's gates to o - pen wide;
3. Je - sus loves me! still to - day walk - ing with me on my way;



Je - sus said so lov - ing - ly, "Let the chil-dren come to me."
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
want - ing as a friend to give light and life to all who live.



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Dismissal

Go in peace.
Lift high the cross!
God's Work. Our Hands!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer, arr. Craig Phillips
(b. 1961)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTERS

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

MUSICIAN

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Members from the Schola Cantorum

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God's Work
Our Hands

at Saint Luke Lutheran

September 12, 2021

12 GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

SEP

8:45 am	Worship, <i>streaming online</i>
10:15 am	Up for Discussion, <i>via Zoom</i>
11:30 am	Outdoor Holy Communion, <i>South Parking Lot</i>
5:00 pm	San Lucas Misa, <i>streaming online</i>

19 THE SEVENTEETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEP

8:45 am	Worship, <i>streaming online</i>
10:15 am	Up for Discussion, <i>via Zoom</i>
3:00 pm	San Lucas Gospel Meditation, <i>via Zoom</i>

MUSIC NOTES

Margaret Vardell Sandresky (b. 1921) is a Winston-Salem, NC based composer who has written many pieces for the organ. "God Is Our Refuge and Strength" is based on Psalm 46 and was written in memory of 9/11. A quiet plaintive opening leads into a more hopeful section. As the piece gathers momentum, the organ gets louder and finishes triumphantly.

The anthem at the offering "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" is a choral setting of the hymn of the same title set to the tune "Repton" by English composer Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918). He is most famous for the choral song "Jerusalem" and his 1902 setting for the coronation anthem "I was glad." English hymnologist J.R. Watson summarizes well the contribution of this hymn: "It is the opposite end of the devotional spectrum from those hymns which encourage activity and energy; but everyone experiences the need for quiet meditation at some time, and this hymn encourages an almost mystical contemplation of the peace of God 'which passes all understanding.'"

Craig Phillips is a distinguished and popular American composer and organist and Director of Music at All Saints' Church, Beverly Hills. His choral and organ music is heard Sunday by Sunday in churches and cathedrals across the United States, and many of his works have been performed in concert throughout North America, Europe and Asia. His setting of the hymn tune "Crucifer" interjects interesting harmonies and rhythms to the heroic tune.

Upcoming Commemorations

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

Monday, September 13, 2021

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

Holy Cross Day

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179

Friday, September 17, 2021

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961

Saturday, September 18, 2021

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.